Early Childhood Education Centres in Madhya Pradesh

2598. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have established Early Childhood Education Centres in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details and the purposes thereof;

(c) what is the number of such Centres located in Madhya Pradesh;

(d) whether Government propose to open more such Centres in the country; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 4365 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Centres functioning in 9 Educationally Backward States, viz. Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal. The Early Childhood Education is designed towards improving Children's communication (language) and cognitive (Social, emotional, intellectual and personality development) skills as a preparation for entry into primary schools. The Early Childhood Education Centres are intended to provide early childhood education to the children in the age group of 3—6 years.

(c) Out of these 4365 ECE Centres, 354 Centres are in Madhya Pradesh. In addition the National Council of Educational Research and training (NCERT) has set up 65 ECE Centres in rural blocks of Mandla district.

(d) No, Sir. The pre-school education shall be imparted through the Integrated Child Development Services Scheme.

(e) Does not arise.

Food Aid Scheme in M.P.

2599. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have extended food aid scheme under World Food Programme to children and their mothers in the State of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof with areas covered and number of beneficiaries in that State;

(c) whether Government have any proposal for extending this programme to the whole of the State; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 2.17 lakh ICDS beneficiaries in 32 ICDS Projects in three districts (Dhar, Jhabua and Khargone) are getting Supplementary Nutrition out of food commodities provided by WFP.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Illiteracy in the Country

2600. SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the largest number of illiterates in the world;

(b) if so, the details with comparative figures of the developing countries;

(c) whether Government have neglected the primary and secondary education; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The comparative figures regarding the number of illiterates in different countries in the world in 1991 are not available. A statement showing the number of illiterates in different countries according to the figures published by the UNESCO in the Statistical Year Book (1988) is attached. (*See* below).

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Literacy in the country as Compared to other Countries

S.No.	Country and year of census		Age group	Illiterate Population
1		2	3	4
1	Algeria	1982	15+	5880350
2	Benin	1979	15+	1418051
3	Botswana	1971	15+	182944
4	Burkina Faso	1975	15+	2803440
5	Cameroon	1976	15+	2360088
6	Cape Verde	1970	14+	134633
7	Comoros	1980	15+	88780
8	Congo	1985	15+	365632
9	Egypt	1976	15+	13317501
10	Equatorial Guinea	1980	15+	105100
11	Ethiopia	1983	10+	8500000
12	Ghana	1970	15+	3293320
13	Guinea-Bissaul	1979	15+	342393
14	Liberia	1974	15+	714502